

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A koji mold belonging to the genus *Aspergillus*, *Rhizopus*, *Mucor* or *Penicillium*, the proteolytic activity of which is not carbon repressed.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): A koji mold according to claim 1, wherein the *creA* gene does not exert its inherent function.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): A koji mold according to claim 2, wherein the *creA* gene is not transcribed to a mRNA capable to be translated to a functional polypeptide.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): A koji mold according to claim 1 which is *Aspergillus oryzae* I-2165 (NF14).

Claim 5 (withdrawn): A koji mold according to claim 1 wherein the *areA* gene or a functional derivative thereof is overexpressed.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): A method of producing proteolytic enzymes, comprising cultivating a koji mold belonging to the genus *Aspergillus*, *Rhizopus*, *Mucor*, or *Penicillium*, the proteolytic activity of which is not carbon repressed and wherein the *creA* gene has been mutated such that the gene product thereof is essentially nonfunctional in a suitable growth medium in the presence of a carbon source under conditions that the mold expresses proteolytic enzymes.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method for enhancing the proteolytic activity of a koji mold belonging to the genus *Aspergillus*, *Rhizopus*, *Mucor*, or *Penicillium*, comprising modifying a *creA* gene of said koji mold such that the ability of the gene product thereof to inhibit the production of a protease is ~~essentially nonfunctional~~ decreased.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 6 wherein the *creA* gene is not transcribed to a mRNA capable to be translated to a functional polypeptide.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 6 wherein the *creA* gene has been deleted.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 6 wherein the koji mold is *Aspergillus oryzae* I-2165 (NF14).

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 6 wherein the *areA* gene or a functional derivative thereof is overexpressed.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 6 including the step of isolating the enzymes in the form of a concentrate.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7 wherein the *creA* gene is not transcribed to a mRNA capable to be translated to a functional polypeptide.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7 wherein the *creA* gene has been deleted.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7 wherein the koji mold is *Aspergillus oryzae* CNCM I-2165 (NF14).

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7 wherein an areA gene of the koji mold is overexpressed.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for preparing a protein hydrolysate from hydrolyzing a proteinaceous material with a koji mold belonging to the genus Aspergillus, Rhizopus, Mucor, or Penicillium, comprising modifying a creA gene of said koji mold such that the ability of the gene product thereof to inhibit the production of a protease is essentially non-functional decreased; and contacting said proteinaceous material with said koji mold.